



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



In New York, prices were unchanged. Elsewhere, weekly prices were higher on all sizes. Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm entering the week. Demand into all channels ranged light to good, best where feature activity was in progress or planned. Supplies were adequate to close, instances tight, and held with increased confidence. Breaking stock offerings ranged short to barely adequate for the light to moderate demand. Spent hens were at least adequate to adequate for slaughter schedules that were mostly normal.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

MIDWEST REGIONAL Prices to retailers were 4 cents higher for extra large and large and 7 cents higher for mediums. Prices to producers were unchanged. Trade sentiment continued fully steady to firm. Most graders were reporting retail business as moderate to good. Loose egg movement was mostly moderate. Supplies were in close balance to adequate. Central States breaking stock prices were unchanged from the previous Thursday's reported prices. Offerings were tight to adequate with demand generally light. Trade sentiment fully steady to firm.

RANGE MOSTLY

EXTRA LARGE	91-100	95-97
LARGE	91-99	93-96
MEDIUM	81-87	84-86

IA-MN-WI - Prices paid to producers.			
LARGE	74-81	76	
MEDIUM	64-68	66	
SMALL	36-38		

MIDWEST AREA: IA,IL,IN,KY,MI,MN,OH,NE,ND,SD,WI,WV,Western NY, and Western PA

NORTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were higher on all sizes when compared to previous week's pricing. The market tone remained fully steady to firm entering the week. Demand ranged moderate to good, best where features were in progress. Supplies were in close balance to tight and held with increased confidence. Breaking stock offerings were short to barely adequate for the moderate demand. Spent hens were at least adequate to adequate for processing schedules that were mostly normal.

RANGE MOSTLY

EXTRA LARGE	99-113	100-105
LARGE	94-108	99-103
MEDIUM	83-96	88-90

NORTHEAST AREA: CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, eastern NJ, eastern NY, PA, RI, Northern VA, and VT

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL Prices were higher. The trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. Retail demand was moderate to good and continued to improve. Food service movement was moderate. Supplies were mostly adequate to at times barely adequate and were still held with confidence. Central states breaking stock prices were unchanged from the last reported prices. Offerings were tight to adequate for the generally light demand. Floor stocks short of needs to fully adequate. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment fully steady to firm.

RANGE MOSTLY

EXTRA LARGE	98.5-107	100-103
LARGE	97.5-106	99-102
MEDIUM	86.5-95	88-91

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA: AR,AZ,CO,KS,LA,MO,NM,OK, and TX

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were higher on all sizes when compared to previous week's values. The market tone was fully steady to firm beginning the week. Demand was light to fairly good, best where features stimulated additional movement. Supplies were held with confidence and ranged sufficient to close for present trade needs. Breaking stock demand was moderate for short to barely adequate supplies. Breaking schedules were irregular. Light type fowl were at least sufficient to adequate for the at least moderate demand.

RANGE MOSTLY

EXTRA LARGE	98.25-107	101-104
LARGE	96.25-105	99-102
MEDIUM	82-93	86-90

SOUTHEAST AREA: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, eastern TN, and southern VA

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

NEW YORK Prices began the week unchanged on all sizes. Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. Demand ranged light to fairly good, best where feature activity was a factor. Supplies were about adequate to close and held with confidence.

RANGE

EXTRA LARGE	108-112
LARGE	106-110
MEDIUM	95-99

CHICAGO & MIDWEST EGGS Prices were slightly higher. The market tone was fully steady to firm. Retail demand was moderate to good. Food service movement was mostly moderate. Supplies were adequate and held with confidence.

RANGE MOSTLY

EXTRA LARGE	97-105	99-101
LARGE	96-104	97-100
MEDIUM	86-95	89-91

See page 3 for prices on certified organic eggs in cartons

WESTERN Prices 4 cents higher on jumbo, extra large, and large, 7 cents higher on medium throughout the region. The Pacific region inventory was 2% lower than last Monday with California down 8% and Oregon-Washington-Utah up 10%. Retailer demand moderate. Offerings held very confidently.

CALIFORNIA

Prices 4 cents higher on jumbo, extra large, and large, 7 cents higher on medium and small. The California inventory was 8% lower than last Monday. Retailer demand moderate. Offerings held for top prices. Small benchmark price 102. Ads in Northern California: major-large dozen 199, 18 pack 249, 2 for \$4.

CALIFORNIA: California Egg Marketing Association and other marketers benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms.

RANGE

JUMBO	145
EXTRA LARGE	140
LARGE	131
MEDIUM	122

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

RANGE

JUMBO	299-399
EXTRA LARGE	289-359
LARGE	239-339
MEDIUM	199-279

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

RANGE

JUMBO	309-389
EXTRA LARGE	219-379
LARGE	269-359
MEDIUM	229-299

NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES REPORT Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending March 05, 2004 will decrease by 8 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending February 27, 2004 were 263,174 cases which was 5 percent below the prior week and 2 percent below estimates.

	CARTONED	LOOSE	TOTAL
Cases purchased present week.....	224,346	38,828	263,174
% change from the prior week.....	-4	-5	-5

Comparison figures are compiled on a matched plant basis. Purchases and estimates by 14 cooperators; 30 dozen cases or equivalent.

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Breaking stock prices were unchanged from the previous Thursday's reported prices. Offerings were tight to adequate with demand generally light. Floor stocks short of needs to fully adequate. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment fully steady to firm.

Prices in cents per dozen, delivered to breakers, 48 lb. minimum net weight per 30 dozen case, eggs from table egg layers. Packaging may vary.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	80-82	
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	69-75	69-71
CENTRAL STATES AREA: AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI		

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Majority prices were slightly higher when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate for offerings that were mostly adequate. Processing schedules were mostly normal. Supplies of finished product were well cleared. The undertone was at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *
FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 01-MAR-04

	RANGE CENTS/LB.	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6-9.5	8.75-9.25	8.84
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT		
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT		

*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Prices were generally unchanged compared to the past week. Demand was moderate for fully adequate offerings of spent hens. Finished sales were clearing production scheduling. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *
FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 01-MAR-04

	RANGE CENTS/LB.	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	5.75-11.75	8.5-9.25	8.95

*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT-AM MAR 01, 2004

STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/ 2/
(30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

		NO	SO	SO	5-Area		
		Northeast	CENT	Atl	Pacific		
Jumbo	Curr Wk	10.4	19.6	9.1	13.0	14.4	66.5
	Change	1.8	3.3	0.8	-1.2	1.9	11%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	25.7	41.9	11.5	21.3	36.1	136.5
	Change	0.4	-3.5	-0.6	1.6	0.3	-1%
Large	Curr Wk	42.4	98.6	78.1	99.4	108.6	427.1
	Change	-0.4	-21.9	13.1	-4.8	-7.0	-5%
Medium	Curr Wk	15.4	28.9	15.6	18.7	27.7	106.3
	Change	-0.3	-6.1	2.0	1.6	1.4	-1%
Small	Curr Wk	4.0	3.5	1.4	4.1	3.7	16.7
	Change	-0.6	-1.0	0.0	-0.9	1.4	-6%
Misc	Curr Wk	3.7	23.8	10.5	13.2	5.7	56.9
	Change	-0.9	1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.1	-5%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	12.0	46.7	16.5	30.4	36.5	142.1
	Change	-2.1	4.9	4.0	2.6	-0.8	7%
Total	Curr Wk	113.6	263.0	142.7	200.1	232.7	952.1
Percent	Change	-2%	-8%	14%	-1%	-2%	-1%

TOTAL	Number of Cases	Percent Change	Number of Cooperators
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Shell Egg	952.1	-1%	169
Shell Egg Breaking Stock 2/	224.3	-10%	35

Total Shell Egg	1,176.4	-3%	204
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1/Information is supplied by a universe of 169 cooperators who normally have stocks on hand each Monday A.M. and is on the basis of matched plants reporting in both the current and previous weeks. Sample does not represent total U.S. inventory but includes eggs packed for export when in cooperator's coolers.

No valid comparison can be made with year ago or previous months' figures due to changes in number of plants surveyed, holidays falling in different weeks or changes in size of plant operations.

CANADIAN EGGS

MONTREAL: WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE TO RETAILERS (CANADIAN CENTS) GRADED IN CARTONS, AS REPORTED BY CANADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16, 2004

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	193	190	181	116.2

MINIMUM PRODUCER PRICES FOB FARM FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING FEBRUARY 16, 2004 AS ESTABLISHED BY ONTARIO EGG AND FOWL PRODUCERS MARKETING BOARD.

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	149	149	139	77

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — DAILY WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2004

CURRENT LOADS		14.00		FUTURE LOADS		11.50		TOTAL LOADS		25.50		LOADS	
CLASS	ORG	DST	SE	NE	MW	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	SC	NW	SW	LOADS
			ORG	DST	ORG	DST					ORG	DST	
GNR W 1	78.00	100.00	—	80.00	95.00	—	10.00	GL W XL	—	—	—	—	.50
GNR BR 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00	GL W LG	—	—	—	—	.75
GL W XL	—	102.00	93.00	97.50	93.75	—	5.00	GL W MD	—	—	—	—	1.00
GL W LG	—	—	—	95.00	90.50	—	2.00	NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	3.00
GL W MD	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.25						
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.00						

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — WEEKLY (5-DAY) WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 02/23/04-02/27/04

CURRENT LOADS		54.50		FUTURE LOADS		52.25		TOTAL LOADS		106.75		LOADS	
CLASS	ORG	DST	SE	NE	MW	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	SC	NW	MW	LOADS
			ORG	DST	ORG	DST					ORG	DST	
GNR W 1	76.40	100.00	75.25	77.86	95.00	82.50	23.00	GNR BR 1	—	93.50	—	—	2.00
GNR W 4	—	—	—	—	65.00	66.00	1.00	GL W J	102.00	—	—	—	111.50
GNR BR 1	—	95.64	92.00	—	—	—	5.75	GL W XL	—	—	—	—	101.81
GL W J	—	—	92.67	93.67	—	—	3.00	GL W LG	—	—	—	—	100.13
GL W XL	—	94.91	91.33	94.30	90.65	90.38	49.75	GL W MD	77.50	75.00	—	—	84.75
GL W LG	—	92.78	87.67	91.31	88.86	88.00	26.75	GL BR MD	77.00	—	—	—	1.00
GL W MD	82.00	72.00	74.63	76.67	—	84.00	16.75	NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	3.00
GL W SM	—	—	—	—	52.00	53.50	.50						
GL BR LG	—	—	—	—	—	113.00	.75						
NRBS - 50	—	—	—	81.00	78.00	84.00	2.00						
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	85.00	84.00	8.00						

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT-FROZEN EGGS (In Thousands)

ON HAND	02/23/04	02/16/04	02/24/03
PACIFIC COAST	372	270	611
LOS ANGELES	302	198	565

HONOLULU, OAHU-WHITE SHELL EGGS

UNAVAILABLE

NORTH CAROLINA EGGS The market is steady on small, and higher on the balance. The supply is adequate. Retail demand is moderate. PRICES WEIGHTED AVERAGE, IN SMALL LOTS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, NEARBY RETAIL OUTLET, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	117.63
LARGE	115.63
MEDIUM	103.63
SMALL	73.00

CERTIFIED ORGANIC EGGS IN CARTONS

(price per carton delivered to first receivers)

Brown Eggs	CENTS/CARTON	MOSTLY
Extra Large doz.	210 – 250	222 – 240
1/2 doz.	123 – 151	125 – 134
Large doz.	200 – 250	217 – 225
1/2 doz.	120 – 142	128 – 132

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